

- (3)
- (c) determining whether said bid price on said lot passes at least one bid failsafe criteria, said at least one bid failsafe criteria incorporating system-based intelligence to determine whether said bid price on said lot is a permissible bid in view of previously received bids; and
- (d) if said bid price on said lot fails said at least one bid failsafe criteria, implementing a pre-defined consequence that is associated with said at least one bid failsafe criteria.

8 / 85. (Amended) A method to limit bids in an electronic auction [of conducting an auction between a plurality of bidders], comprising the steps of:

- (2)
- (a) offering a lot, defined at least in part by an originator, to a plurality of potential bidders, said lot having at least one product;
- (b) defining a closing time for said lot, wherein said closing time for said lot defines a time before which bids for the lot are to be submitted by a potential bidder;
- (a) receiving bids from potential bidders for said lot;
- (b) determining whether an erroneous bid has been submitted by a bidder;
- (c) if an erroneous bid has been submitted, deleting in real-time an erroneous bid and any consequential bids of said erroneous bid from the auction; and
- (d) communicating with potential bidders that said erroneous bid and said consequential bids have been deleted from the auction.

Please add new claims 89-114 as follows:

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89. A method to limit bids in an electronic auction, comprising:
receiving a bid for a lot from a bidder;
determining whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria; and
accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.
90. The method of claim 89, wherein accepting comprises accepting said bid if said bid passes said fail-safe criteria.
91. The method of claim 89, further comprising rejecting said bid if said bid fails to pass said fail-safe criteria.
92. The method of claim 89, wherein said bid fails to pass said fail-safe criteria, and further comprising:
requesting confirmation to accept said bid that fails to pass said fail-safe criteria;
receiving said confirmation; and
accepting said bid based on said confirmation.
- Sub 4
93. The method of claim 89, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:
comparing said bid to a previous bid received from said bidder; and

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determining whether said bid is within one of a predefined percentage and predefined price of said previous bid.

94. The method of claim 89, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:
comparing said bid to a historical price for said lot; and
determining whether said bid is within one of a predefined percentage and predefined price of said historical price.

95. The method of claim 89, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:
comparing said bid to a previous bid for said lot; and
determining whether said bid is within one of a predefined percentage and predefined price of said previous bid.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein said previous bid is a best bid.

97. A method to limit bids in an electronic auction, comprising:
receiving a first bid for a lot from a bidder;
accepting said first bid as one of a plurality of bids for said lot;
determining that said first bid is an erroneous bid; and
removing said first bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said determination.

Sub C5
98. The method of claim 97, further comprising:

receiving a second bid for said lot based on said first bid;

accepting said second bid as one of said plurality of bids; and

removing said second bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said determination.

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99. The method of claim 97, wherein said bids are received from a plurality of bidders, and further comprising:

sending a message to each of said bidders that said first bid is erroneous; and

receiving an acknowledgment to said message from each of said bidders.

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100. The method of claim 98, wherein said bids are received from a plurality of bidders, and further comprising:

sending a message to each of said bidders that said first and second bids are erroneous;

and

receiving an acknowledgment to said message from each of said bidders.

101. The method of claim 97, wherein said determining comprises receiving a message from said bidder that said bid is in error.

102. A machine-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to limit bids in an electronic auction, comprising:

receiving a bid for a lot from a bidder;
determining whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria; and
accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.

103. The machine-readable medium of claim 102, wherein accepting comprises accepting said bid if said bid passes said fail-safe criteria.

104. The machine-readable medium of claim 102, further comprising rejecting said bid if said bid fails to pass said fail-safe criteria.

105. The machine-readable medium of claim 102, wherein said bid fails to pass said fail-safe criteria, and further comprising:

requesting confirmation to accept said bid that fails to pass said fail-safe criteria;
receiving said confirmation; and
accepting said bid based on said confirmation.

106. The machine-readable medium of claim 102, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:
comparing said bid to a previous bid received from said bidder; and

determining whether said bid is within one of a predefined percentage and predefined price of said previous bid.

107. The machine-readable medium of claim 102, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:
comparing said bid to a historical price for said lot; and
determining whether said bid is within one of a predefined percentage and predefined price of said historical price.

108. The machine-readable medium of claim 102, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:
comparing said bid to a previous bid for said lot; and
determining whether said bid is within one of a predefined percentage and predefined price of said previous bid.

109. The machine-readable medium of claim 108, wherein said previous bid is a best bid.

110. A machine-readable medium to limit bids in an electronic auction, comprising:
receiving a first bid for a lot from a bidder;
accepting said first bid as one of a plurality of bids for said lot;
determining that said first bid is an erroneous bid; and
removing said first bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said determination.

Sub C7
111. The machine-readable medium of claim 110, further comprising:
receiving a second bid for said lot based on said first bid;
accepting said second bid as one of said plurality of bids; and
removing said second bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said
determination.

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112. The machine-readable medium of claim 110, wherein said bids are received from a
plurality of bidders, and further comprising:
sending a message to each of said bidders that said first bid is erroneous; and
receiving an acknowledgment to said message from each of said bidders.

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33 113. The machine-readable medium of claim 111, wherein said bids are received from a
plurality of bidders, and further comprising:
sending a message to each of said bidders that said first and second bids are erroneous;
and
receiving an acknowledgment to said message from each of said bidders.

114. The machine-readable medium of claim 110, wherein said determining comprises
receiving a message from said bidder that said bid is in error.--